

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 3 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:
an original ~~carriage for carrying~~ plate adapted to support an original;
~~a reading element for reading an original image with relative movement~~
~~therebetween, said reading element having a configuration elongated in a direction crossing~~
~~with a direction of the movement;~~
a longitudinal reading unit adapted to read an original image, said
longitudinal reading unit including, in a frame, a light source, a light receiving unit, and an
imaging unit adapted to form an original image on said light receiving unit;
a supporting member for supporting said image adapted to support said
frame of said longitudinal reading unit, said supporting member having a first engaging
portion and a second engaging portion to engage with said frame of said longitudinal
reading unit;
~~moving means for driving said supporting member to impart the relative~~
~~movement;~~

~~a first positioning portion for determining a position of said reading element in the longitudinal direction, of said reading element relative to said supporting member;~~
and

~~a second positioning portion for determining a position of said reading element in the moving direction, said second positioning portion supporting said reading element while permitting movement thereof in the longitudinal direction relative to said supporting member~~

a movement unit adapted to move said supporting member relative to said original plate in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said longitudinal reading unit;

a first positioning portion adapted to determine a position of said frame of said longitudinal reading unit relative to said supporting member in the longitudinal direction by engaging with said first engaging portion of said supporting member, said first positioning portion being provided substantially at a central portion of said frame of said longitudinal reading unit; and

a second positioning portion adapted to determine a position of said frame of said longitudinal reading unit relative to said supporting member in a moving direction by engaging with said second engaging portion of said supporting member, said second positioning portion engaging with said second engaging portion while being afforded some degree of latitude in the longitudinal direction.

2. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of said second positioning portions are provided, and said first ~~positional~~ positioning portion is disposed between said second positioning portions.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first positioning portion ~~permits movement of said reading element relative to said supporting member~~ engages with said second engaging portion while being afforded some degree of latitude in the moving direction.

5. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 6 ~~1~~, wherein said first positioning ~~portions~~ portion includes a boss and a claw portion ~~portions~~ nipping said boss, and said ~~reading element~~ frame of said longitudinal reading unit and said supporting member each has ~~have either~~ one of said boss and said claw portion.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of said second positioning portions are provided, ~~and they are provided~~ adjacent opposite ends of said longitudinal reading unit member.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said second positioning portion includes a boss and a hole which is elongated in the longitudinal direction of ~~the reading element and which is engageable with said boss, and~~ said reading element of said longitudinal reading unit, and each of said frame of said longitudinal reading unit and said supporting member ~~has~~ have either one of said boss and said elongated hole.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1 8, wherein said longitudinal reading element unit includes ~~reading means for reading the image and a~~ light guide member for guiding light from said light source, and ~~imaging means for imaging reflected light from the original on said reading means.~~

10. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said image reading apparatus is usable with an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material on the basis of image information read by said image reading apparatus.